



## LOUISIANA'S HISTORIC STATEHOUSE GOVERNORS

### Classroom Project and Museum Exhibition Activities

Louisiana's Old State Capitol  
 Museum of Political History  
 100 North Blvd.  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70801  
 225-342-0500  
[www.sos.la.gov/osc](http://www.sos.la.gov/osc)

**Grades** 4-12

**Subjects** American and Louisiana History, English

**Time** One day pre-visit activity, one day museum field trip

### Lesson and Field Trip Overview

Some of Louisiana's most important and controversial governors guided the state from offices that were located in Louisiana historic Old State Capitol. This classroom project and museum exhibition activity is based on the Old State Capitol's Louisiana Governors and Statehouses of Louisiana Internet exhibitions as well as our new, interactive **Louisiana Governors' Portrait Gallery** museum exhibition, which opened in 2009.

Our pre-visit project introduces students to the governors who served in Louisiana's historic statehouse. Plan a class visit to Louisiana's Old State Capitol Museum of Political History to examine the rooms where these men, as well as Louisiana's elected state officials, made significant and historic decisions. Then, explore the museum's second floor Rotunda to view the state's largest exhibition of gubernatorial portraits and visit our portrait kiosk to learn how each shaped Louisiana history.

For field trip information, please contact our staff at 225-342-0500.

### Benchmarks

<b>Social Studies Benchmarks for First Through Fifth Grades</b>	
H-1A-E3	Identifying and using primary and secondary historical sources to learn about the past (1, 3, 4)
<b>Social Studies Benchmarks for Sixth Through Eighth Grades</b>	
H-1A-M4	Analyzing historical data using primary and secondary sources (1-4)
H-1A-M2	Explain the point of view of key historical figures and groups in U.S. history
H-1A-M3	Explain how a given historical figure influenced or changed the course of U.S. history
<b>Social Studies Benchmarks for Ninth through 12<sup>th</sup> Grades</b>	

H-1A-H5 H-1A-H2 H-1A-H3	Conduct historical research using a variety of resources to answer historical questions related to U.S. history and present that research in appropriate format(s) (visual, electronic, written) Analyze the point of view of an historical figure or group in U.S. history Evaluate and use multiple primary or secondary materials to interpret historical facts, ideas, or issues
<b>English Language Arts Benchmarks</b>	
ELA-5-E3	Accessing information and conducting research using a variety of primary and secondary sources (1-4)

### Pre-Visit Activity

1. Introduce students to Louisiana’s Old State Capitol, using our Louisiana’s Historic Statehouse Governors history overview and our Internet site, [www.sos.la.gov/osc](http://www.sos.la.gov/osc).
2. Ask student to complete the Louisiana’s Historic Statehouse Governors activity. Explain that they will use our [Louisiana Governors](#) and [Statehouses of Louisiana](#) Internet exhibitions to find the governors who held office in Louisiana’s Old State Capitol building.
3. Tell students this pre-visit activity will prepare them for their field trip to Louisiana’s Old State Capitol Museum of Political History where they will
  - a. examine the rooms where these men, as well as Louisiana’s elected state officials, made significant and historic decisions
  - b. explore the museum’s second floor Rotunda to view the state’s largest exhibition of gubernatorial portraits
  - c. visit the museum’s portrait kiosk to learn how each of the historic statehouse governors shaped Louisiana history

### Museum Field Trip

1. To prepare for your class’ field trip to the Old State Capitol, make copies of the **Louisiana’s Historic Statehouse Governors Field Trip Guide**, one copy per student.
2. We suggest that you assign student to groups consisting of six to ten students and one chaperone per group. Instruct students to remain with their group during the duration of their visit.
3. Explain that students will use their copy of the **Louisiana’s Historic Statehouse Governors Field Trip Guide** to continue their investigation of Louisiana governor and the Old State Capitol.

### Post-Visit Activity

Moderate a whole-class discussion to discover what students learned from their field trip, their impressions of the Old State Capitol, and vote for the most interesting portrait in the Governors’ Portrait Gallery.

## LOUISIANA'S HISTORIC STATEHOUSE GOVERNORS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### **Brief History of the Old State Capitol**

Louisiana's historic statehouse, which is known today as the Old State Capitol, served as the seat of Louisiana government for over 60 years. Today, the building houses a modern political history museum with state-of-the-art history exhibitions.

The Old State Capitol building opened for the first time as the seat of Louisiana government in 1850. It was the site of the Louisiana legislature's 1861 vote to secede from the Union and was abandoned by Louisiana's Confederate government in 1862 as Union troops advanced on Baton Rouge. The building was occupied by Union troops during the summer of 1862, months later became a troop hospital following the Battle of Baton Rouge, and was devastated by fire in December of 1862.

The charred structure of the building was abandoned for 20 years until the Louisiana legislature voted to rebuild and reoccupy the historic statehouse. The capitol building reopened in 1862 and served as the seat of government until the construction on Louisiana's New State Capitol was completed in 1932.

### **Historic Statehouse Governors Activity**

#### **Directions**

1. Explore our Louisiana Governors and Statehouses of Louisiana Internet exhibitions to discover which Louisiana governors served their term(s) in Louisiana's historic statehouse.
2. On another sheet of paper, prepare a chart that contains the following information:
  - the name of each governor who served in the Old State Capitol building
  - the beginning and ending dates of their term(s) in office
  - the political party to which each belonged
  - one important accomplishment of each governor or one important event that occurred during his/her term

Louisiana's Old State Capitol Museum of Political History

LOUISIANA'S HISTORIC STATEHOUSE GOVERNORS  
FIELD TRIP GUIDE

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to Louisiana's historic statehouse!. While you are here, continue your exploration of our historic governors and visit the rooms where some of Louisiana's most important political decisions were made.

**Checklist of Things to See and Find!**

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. **The Governor's Offices** These rooms were used by governors who served in this building. Name one interesting artifact (object from the past) you saw in this room.

What did you learn about this artifact?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. **The Secretary of State's Office** Today, the Secretary of State regulates the Old State Capitol. Can you name our current Secretary of State? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. **Louisiana's State Flag** Describe the state flag of Louisiana.  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. **The Historic House Chamber** Can you name two important history events that occurred in this room and the dates they occurred?  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. **Charred Evidence of the 1906 Fire** In 1906, a fire destroyed on the Old State Capitol's beautiful stained glass windows. You can still see evidence of this fire today. Can you name the room where the fire occurred?  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. **Portrait of a Woman Governor**  
Can you name one woman who served as governor of Louisiana? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. **Portrait of the Current Governor of Louisiana**  
Can you name the current governor of Louisiana? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. **Your Favorite Governor Portrait** Visit the Governors' Portrait Gallery on the second floor of the Rotunda. Select one portrait that you think is interesting.

▪ What is the name of the governor? \_\_\_\_\_

▪ Why do you think his/her portrait is interesting? \_\_\_\_\_

▪ If you could ask this governor one question, what would that question be?  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. **Portrait of Governor Henry Watkins Allen** Governor Henry Watkins Allen was one of Louisiana's most beloved governors. There are monuments to Governor Allen in both the old and new state capitol buildings.

• Did Governor Allen serve his term as governor in the Old State Capitol? \_\_\_\_\_

• Can you name and find an example of a type of tree that he had planted on the grounds of the Old State Capitol? \_\_\_\_\_

• Find his monument on the Old State Capitol grounds.

What color is the monument? \_\_\_\_\_